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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 34-36 have been canceled. Claims 2, 10, 31-33 and 37 remain. Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Allowable subject matter

Allowability of claims 2, 10, 31-33 and 37 is noted with appreciation.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, 7 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Katsuyuki (JP 58-169149). By this amendment, claims 5, 7 and 35 have been canceled, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-4, 9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyuki (JP 58-169149). By this amendment, claims 1, 3-4, 9 and 11-14 have been canceled, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

Claims 6, 15 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuyuki (JP 58-169149) in view of Chang (US006197481B1) and Oishi (US006004405A). By this amendment, claims 6, 15 and 34 have been canceled, rendering the rejection thereof moot.

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Conclusion

It is clear from all of the foregoing that claims 2, 10, 31-33 and 37 are in condition for allowance. An early formal notice of allowance of claims 2, 10, 31-33 and 37 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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